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SF: EPA GRANT TO FUND BIO-DIESEL PROGRAM AT CITY COLLEGE

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National Environmental Protection Agency officials today announced a \$200,000 grant to the City College of San Francisco to fund a bio-diesel program. "The grant will help fund a bio-diesel gap."

The money will be used to bring together bio-diesel advocates to develop a system of distribution for the fuel, and to provide classroom training.

The goal of the project, according to the EPA, is to transform bio-diesel from a "boutique fuel" into a mainstream fuel that is widely available in the Bay Area and eventually the West Coast.

"This grant gives City College of San Francisco a unique opportunity to help jump start the use of bio-diesel in the Bay Area," said the EPA's administrator for the Pacific Southwest region, said in a statement. "Bringing bio-diesel into mainstream use will create a fuel source that improves air quality and reduces the impact of waste oil to our waterways."

Nastri and other environmental and university officials toured City College's Alternative Transportation Technology Center, where students manufacture and test bio-diesel on vehicles.

City College Chancellor Philip Day Jr. said the school has a long history of training its students in emerging industries.

"Beyond this training, however, will be emission reductions, improved air quality and improved health here in Bayview and other parts of the city," he stated.

Bio-diesel is a biodegradable, non-toxic alternative fuel produced from renewable resources. Advocates say it is safe to use in a diesel engine and pollutes far less than conventional petroleum diesel.

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